

## **BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE ON ETHICS ORDINANCE MEETING NOTES**

Thursday, August 12, 2004

CH - Room 204 Building

**Attending:** Councilmember Ken Yeager (Chair), Councilmember Cindy Chavez, Vice Mayor Pat Dando, Councilmember Chuck Reed

**Staff:** Rick Doyle (City Attorney), Lee Price (City Clerk), Norm Sato (City Attorney's Office), Peter Jensen (City Manager's Office).

### **Task Force Discussion of Work Plan for Ethics Ordinance**

The Task Force discussed the proposed work plan and meeting schedule for the months of August through December 2004. A number of suggestions for agenda topics included:

- Code of Ethics – Look at the current Council Policy, examine the ICMA Model Code, review other cities codes, discuss ethics more often, provide a session on ethics during training for lobbyists; share Code of Ethics with members of City boards and commissions; use League of California Cities and the National League of Cities as resources
- Invite speakers to discuss the elements of an ethical environment at City Hall; suggestions for speakers included former Mayor of San Jose Tom McEnery, or another large city mayor city manager, Joann Spears from the League of California Cities, other theorists or practioners
- Review the City's gift ordinance, compare with other cities and State law
- Review the "revolving door" policy
- Discuss who can initiate an investigation if a violation of the ethics ordinance appears to have occurred; seek input from the Elections Commission; examine the "arms length" policy
- Review and discuss officeholder accounts; look at how other cities regulate
- Hear from the City Clerk about on-line campaign disclosure and implementation of the new lobbyist regulations
- Review how the public and the media access to information/records; review "sunshine ordinances" of other cities
- Discuss the possible reconsideration of not putting cameras in meetings rooms at the New City Hall.

The Task Force reviewed the process used to develop and forward recommendations for the revised lobbyist ordinance (introduced on August 10<sup>th</sup>). There was agreement by members of the Task Force to provide updates to their colleagues on the Council, and to make recommendations as appropriate, incrementally rather than waiting until the work plan is complete. In addition, it was agreed that an evening meeting should be held to allow more from the public to attend. The

Clerk was instructed to continue outreach efforts to involve more members of the community into the process.

The work plan and meeting schedule as amended is attached as Exhibit A.

There were no public comments.

At 11:20 a.m. the meeting was adjourned.

**BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE ON ETHICS AND LOBBYING:  
MEETING SCHEDULE 2004**

**August 26                                      10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.                                      Room 204, City Hall**

**Gift Ordinance**

- Review of the City's current provisions
- Compare the City's current provisions to those of other local jurisdictions and the State and Federal governments
- Establish Task Force goals and priorities for San Jose's Gift Ordinance
- Discuss particular changes to existing ordinance language
- Listen to public comment on the proposed changes

**Revolving Door Ordinance**

- Review of the City's current provisions
- Establish Task Force goals and priorities for San Jose's Revolving Door Ordinance
- Discuss particular changes to existing ordinance language
- Listen to public comment on the proposed changes

Updates from City Clerk on the following:

- **Status of posting candidate/officeholder filings online and when to agendaize for discussion in detail at a future Task Force meeting**
- **Fees and charges relative to implementation of the City's new lobbyist ordinance and when those might be brought to Council**

**September 9                                      10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.                                      Room 204, City Hall**

**Panel of Practitioners/Theorists RE: Creating an Ethical Environment at City Hall**

- Other points to discuss include the issue of cameras in meeting rooms at the new City Hall

**September 23**

**3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.**

**Room 204, City Hall**

**Officeholder Accounts (intent and restrictions) and Fundraising Provisions**

- Review of the City's current provisions
- Compare the City's current provisions to those of other local jurisdictions and the State and Federal governments
- Potential discussion with panel of experts
- Establish Task Force goals and priorities for officeholder accounts in San Jose

Approve Task Force recommendations for the Gift Ordinance and Revolving Door Ordinance and forward to City Council

**October 14**

**6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.**

**Room 204, City Hall**

**Officeholder Accounts (intent and restrictions) and Fundraising Provisions**

- Discuss particular changes to existing ordinance language
- Listen to public comment on the proposed changes

**October 28**

**10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

**Room 204, City Hall**

**Campaign Contribution and Disclosure Provisions**

- Review of City's current provisions
- Compare the City's current provisions to those of other local jurisdictions and the State and Federal governments
- Potential presentation by City Clerk regarding progress toward and costs of posting candidate/officeholder filings online
- Establish Task Force goals and priorities for San Jose's Campaign Contribution and Disclosure Provisions

Approve Task Force recommendations on Officeholder Accounts and forward to City Council

**November 10**

**10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

**Room 204, City Hall**

**Campaign Contribution and Disclosure Provisions**

- Discuss particular changes to existing ordinance language
- Listen to public comment on the proposed changes

**December 8**

**10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

**Room 204, City Hall**

**Elections Commission**

- Review of City's current provisions
- Compare the City's current provisions to those of other local jurisdictions and the State and Federal governments
- Establish Task Force goals and priorities for San Jose's Elections Commission
- Discuss particular changes to existing ordinance language
- Listen to public comment on the proposed changes

**Approve Task Force recommendations on Campaign Contributions and Disclosure Provisions and forward to City Council**

**December 15**

**10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

**Room 204, City Hall**

**Code of Ethics**

- Review of City's current provisions
- Compare the City's current provisions to those of other local jurisdictions and the State and Federal governments
- Establish Task Force goals and priorities for San Jose's Code of Ethics
- Discuss particular changes to existing ordinance language
- Listen to public comment on the proposed changes

**Approve Task Force recommendations on the Elections Commission and forward to City Council**

**January/February 2005**

**Review of San Jose's new Lobbyist Ordinance**

**Approve Task Force recommendations on the Code of Ethics and forward to City Council**

**Review of San Jose's implementation of the Brown Act**

**Review of issues surrounding Public Records**

**Review of San Jose's Sunshine Ordinance and related provisions**